

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 20010. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending and stand rejected in the outstanding Office Action. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

The rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 as allegedly being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), by Takahashi et al. (US 6,354,944) is respectfully traversed. Takahashi fails to disclose or even remotely suggest each and every limitation set forth in the claims. Anticipation requires that “each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference”, *Verdegaal Bro. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (MPEP § 2131).

Takahashi does not teach that all of the different characters are made to appear as having the same size regardless of their size.

In Takahashi, each particular object is made to appear as to have the same size regardless of its position in the virtual space, by moving the distance of the virtual camera from the object. More specifically, in Takahashi, the set position of the virtual camera from the player character may depend on the size of the player character. In other words, if the player character is large, then the distance of the virtual camera from the player character is set to be large. On the other hand, if the size of the player character is small, then the distance of the virtual camera from the player character is set to be small. In Takahashi, this adjustment of the distance of the virtual camera is done for each particular player character.

However, Takahashi does not teach that all of the different characters regardless of their size (“even if any one operating object is selected out of said plurality of operating objects

different in size”) are made to appear as having the same size by appropriately changing the viewpoint location for each object.

For example, Figs 8-11 of the instant specification (cited by the Examiner) show exactly this feature. Fig. 8 shows three different objects with different sizes before the viewpoint location for each one has been adjusted according to the invention. Object A is seen as large, object B is seen as medium sized and object C is seen as small. After the process of the invention of claim 1 is performed, the view point location for each of the objects A, B and C is set such that all the objects appear to have the same size (see Fig. 9-showing object A, Fig. 10-showing object 10 and Fig. 11-showing object C). As can be seen from Figs. 9-11, all objects appear to have approximately the same size, even though before the application of the claimed process they had different sizes ($A > B > C$).

Takahashi merely teaches to maintain the displayed size of a particular object with respect to itself (e.g., the character shown in Figs. 7-9 of Takahashi in various positions). In fact, Takahashi teaches away from the above feature of claim 1 in Figs. 11-13. These Figures show how the scene displaying the main character Ch and an enemy character Ch1 is seen when the viewpoint location of the camera for the main character is at C1 in Fig. 10 (corresponding to Fig. 11), C2 (Fig. 12) and C3 (Fig. 13), see col. 12, lines 32-50. As it can be clearly seen, the size of the displayed objects Ch and Ch1 is not the same in these Figures.

For the above reasons, claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 4-5 and 7-10, each being dependent from claim 1 or 6, also be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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